MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

1 APRIL 1981

Reaction to Assassination Attempt

According to reports by the media of their respective countries, the following leaders sent messages wishing U.S. President Ronald Reagan a speedy recovery after he was wounded in an assassination attempt on 30 March: Egyptian President Anwar as-Sadat, Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad, Lebanese President Ilyas Sarkis, Israeli Prime Minister Menahem Begin, Saudi Crown Prince Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, Kuwaiti Amir Jabir al-Ahmad as-Sabah, Bahraini Amir Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah, Qatari Amir Shaykh Khalifah ibn Hamad Al Thani, Omani Sultan Qabus ibn Sa'id, UAE President Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan, YAR President Col 'Ali Abdallah Salih, Turkish head of state Gen Kenan Evren and Pakistani President Mohammad Ziaul Haq.

Iranian media have broadcast both reaction by Iranian officials and commentaries on the assassination attempt. Prime Minister Mohammad 'Ali Raja'i told a Tehran radio correspondent that Reagan and "all those who think" like him are "doomed to be destroyed." Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni indicated in a speech to students, broadcast by the radio, that even if Reagan had died there would have been no reason to mourn as Iranian students had done when President John Kennedy was assassinated, because now Iran should not be dependent on foreigners.

Tehran radio's English service broadcast an unattributed commentary linking the assassination attempt to errors by American "security agencies" to find a pretext to return to the "oppressive atmosphere" that prevailed during the days of the Vietnam war and the Watergate scandal. Tehran radio's Arabic service, on the other hand, broadcast a commentary that viewed the attempt as a reaction to the policies pursued by President Reagan: the reduction of spending on domestic services and increased spending on arms, as well as a foreign policy that is "opposed to human rights," supports "racist states" and accuses world liberation movements of terrorism. Considering these policies, the commentary concluded, "it is no wonder" that an American citizen should try to kill President Reagan.

Egypt

In a journalists' day speech broadcast by Cairo radio, President as-Sadat revealed that Egypt has sold Iraq Egyptian-produced ammunition. As-Sadat stressed that although he considers the Iraqi invasion of Iran to have been mistaken, he is still grateful for Iraqi support for Egypt in the October 1973 war. An agreement has been signed with the Iraqis, he indicated, and they have chosen and purchased what they need. As-Sadat's remarks follow a 28 March report by the London-based newspaper ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that Egypt sent "vast arms shipments" to Iraq on 22 March and that a second consignment would soon be dispatched. The newspaper said that Oman played an important role in concluding the agreement between the two countries, which have no diplomatic relations. In his remarks President as-Sadat confirmed the role of a "third party." As-Sadat devoted the rest of his speech to a review of the past and present role of the press and announced a 15 May deadline before which Egyptian journalists abroad who have attacked Egypt may return, join the press association and be "safe" from prosecution.

Iran-Iraq Conflict

Good Offices Committee--After some members of the Islamic Conference good offices committee met with Iranian President Abolhasan Bani-Sadr on 31 March, the committee left Iran, Tehran radio reported. The committee later arrived in Baghdad, INA reported, where Iraqi President Saddam Husayn told its members that if the Arabs are truly honest about their stated desire to defend Palestine, then they should also defend the three Arab islands "usurped" by Iran in 1971 as well as Arab sovereignty over the Shatt al-'Arab.

After lengthy talks with President Husayn and senior Iraqi officials, the committee left Baghdad, another INA report said. Commenting on the good offices committee's visit to Tehran, its spokesman, Habib Chatti, Islamic Conference secretary general, stated that his meetings with President Bani-Sadr were conducted in a frank and clear atmosphere but indicated that difficulties still remain, Tehran radio reported.

Iranians Appoint Investigators--Iranian Prime Minister Mohammad 'Ali Raja'i issued a decree, broadcast by Tehran radio, appointing National Guidance Minister 'Abbas Duzduzani "secretary genral of an Islamic conference to investigate the crimes committed by Saddam's regime." The decree said that "international figures" will participate in the conference. The radio also broadcast the text of an order by the guidance minister appointing Kamal Gharazi, the head of the Supreme Defense Council Publicity Headquarters, as "executive deputy" to the conference and indicating that his role will be to organize the conference.

Military Situation--According to an Iraqi General Command communique, carried by INA, Iraqi aircraft attacked an Iranian bridge in the Marivan region, scoring "direct hits." Tehran radio reported continued sporadic exchanges of fire along all western and southern fronts.

Lebanon-Israel

Citing a UN spokesman, Beirut radio reported that the "border strip militias" shelled the Tyre area, killing a child and wounding 13 other people, most of them children. The radio later reported that another person was killed when the shelling resumed, while the Voice of Palestine radio claimed that the shelling was aimed at Palestinian refugee camps in the Tyre area. According to another Voice of Palestine radio report, in response to Israel's "repeated barbaric" shelling of "innocent civilians" in Lebanon, Palestinian forces launched a rocket attack on the Israeli settlement of Ma'oz Hayyim during the night of 30 March. It claimed that the Israelis suffered heavy losses. A Jerusalem radio report on the attack said that it came from Jordanian territory. The radio said that no one was killed and no damage was caused by the attack.

Jordan

Prime Minister Mudar Badran told the National Consultative Council that Israel's plan to construct a canal linking the Mediterranean and Dead Seas is further evidence of Israel's intention to "swallow up" more of the occupied Arab territories through methods that are in "flagrant violation" of international law. In a 30 March statement to the council, broadcast by Amman television, Badran said that the project poses a security threat to Jordan. He added that Jordan will consider any state that helps finance or construct the canal to be guilty of aggression against Jordan. He noted that in response to a request by his country, the Arab League Council issued a statement calling on all states to oppose this "anti-Arab" project.

Israel

Jerusalem radio reported that Labor Party Chairman Shim'on Peres has said the Alignment's terms for a peace agreement with Jordan would include demands that Israel maintain early warning stations on the mountain ridges and that West Bank territories evacuated by Israel remain demilitarized. Jordan would be offered a land corridor approximately 15 km wide between its territory and the West Bank, Peres added.

FBIS DAILY REPORT

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KARMAL, KESHTMAND RECEIVE SKACHKOV, USSR DELEGATION

LD312222 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 31 Mar 81

[Text] Babrak Karmal, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee, chairman of the Revolution Council and prime minister of the DRA, this afternoon received the high-ranking Soviet delegation led by Semen Skachkov, member of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the USSR State Committee for External Economic Cooperation With Foreign Countries, at the headquarters of the Revolution Council. The meeting was held in an atmosphere of exceptional friendship and sincerity. Soltan 'Ali Keshtmand, vice chairman of the Revolution Council and deputy prime minister of the DRA was also present.

NUR AHMAD NUR ADDRESSES PARTY SEMINAR IN KABUL

LD312252 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 31 Mar 81

[Text] In order to improve and enhance the effectiveness of organizational affairs in the party committees and primary organizations of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan, the second seminar for organization committee personnel of the party and provincial committees of Kabul city were held this morning in the PDPA Central Committee hall. It was attended by representatives of the armed forces organizations, the Sarandoy and the KHAD. Some members of the Politburo and the PDPA Central Committee also took part in this seminar.

First, the agenda and the aims and practicalities of the seminar were (?outlined). In his opening speech, Nur Ahmad Nur, member of the Politiburo and secretary of the PDPA Central Committee, spoke of the enormous responsibility of party activists and their role in the development and growth of organizational and ideological duties and the strengthening of the unity of national ranks.

Nur Ahmad Nur went on to speak about the growth and development of party ranks. He pointed to the enormous task of party committee personnel in putting into practice the aims of the Sawr Revolution, particularly its new development stage, with the [word indistinct] national order and the results of the plenums of the PDPA Central Committee in social life, and in (?informing) the masses about the construction of a new society.

Nur Ahmad Nur also spoke about the aims of the PDPA and the tremendous oppression of people in past years. He mentioned the party committees' responsibility to serve the people, and the need for them to become the servants of the workers and to maintain the unbreakable connection with the masses.

Following this, Najmuddin Kawyani, president of the organizational committee of the PDPA Central Committee, gave the principal speech of the seminar. He explained, in a comprehensive and all-round scientific manner, the importance of further strengthening the unity of the party; the social spread and expansion of the party and the need to attract the workers into the ranks of the PDPA; the strengthening of party organizations in accordance with the party's constitution; the basic policy of cadres, committees and primary party organizations; the particular instructions on planning the organizational affairs; and the duties of (?various) plenums of the PDPA Central Committee which have been assigned to party organizations.

According to the latest report, in the afternoon session of the seminar, the personnel responsible for the party organizational committees of Kabul city, Kabul, Balkh, Paktia, Baghlan and Herat Provinces, the fifth district of Kabul city and the secretary of the Jangalak primary organization, spoke in support of the principal speech and the implementation of the valuable instructions and experiences of their party.

PDPA'S GOL AQA VISITS OFFICERS TRAINING COURSE

LD312246 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 31 Mar 81

[Text] Brig Gen Gol Aqa, member of the PDPA Central Committee, member of the Revolution Council Presidium and general director of political affairs at the Ministry of National Defense, today visited the officers' higher training course.

Brig Gen Gol Aqa, after talking to the officers enrolled in the course, visited the lectures and political education classes of the officers and soldiers. Finally, in honor of the third anniversary of the Sawr Revolution, he opened the library and the classes for scientific and communications research of the officers higher course. He was accompanied on the visit by the course commander, a political officer and a number of other officers.

KABUL NEW TIMES COMMENTS ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Pakistan U.S. 'Stooge'

LD010616 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0415 GMT 1 Apr 81

[Text] Kabul, 31 Mar (BAKHTAR)--"Pakistan has become an obedient stooge of the White House and has turned into a major bridgehead of armed intervention and sabotage against the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan," reads a commentary by Ghaus Amir published in Kabul NEW TIMES on March 30.

The commentator, retracing the genesis of the unpopular military regime in Pakistan, describes it as a "sheer product of Sino-U.S. imperialistic, neo-colonial policy towards the people of the region." To this regime, writes Ghasu Amir, "Washington would like to assign the role of a policeman in the Persian Gulf zone" as a substitute for the overthrown tyrannical regime of the shah. He recalls, in this connection, the new manoeuvres of Washington which include talks of the conclusion of a fresh defence treaty with Pakistan, consideration of the possibility of massive supply of modern weapons to Pakistan to the tune of $1.5 billion and the scheme for a military bloc to include Pakistan and the reactionary Arab regimes.

The commentator observes that "it is not accidental that the U.S. administration is hatching such plots. The U.S.-Chinese military strategists, in collusion with their loyal allies, are actively using Islamabad as the main springboard for an undeclared war against Afghanistan. Myriads of training camps and make-shift hiding cottages have been set up on the territory of Pakistan where the Afghan counter-revolutionaries and brigands are being trained and equipped under the supervision of American and Chinese experts. The Pakistani territory has turned into a great centre for subversive acts and sporadic infiltration of the saboteurs to launch attacks against the specified targets inside Afghanistan on the order of the aliens." The article notes that: "The Pakistani authorities at the behest of Gen Ziaul Haq and the army are directly involved in all these hostile activities against the people of Afghanistan. They not only support the counter-revolutionary subversive groups but actually organise and coordinate the sinister acts and schemes." It adds, however, that the revolution is here. "It is invincible and it will lead the new caravan towards its final destination."

Soviet Aid Described

BK270733 Kabul NEW TIMES in English 28 Feb 81 p 3

["By a staff writer"]

[Text] The friendly and good neighbourly relations between Afghanistan and the Soviet Union has a history of more than sixty years.

The Great Lenin was the initiator and patron of these friendly relations. During the long years of friendship between the two countries economic cooperation between Afghanistan and the Soviet Union have gradually expanded and reached the present stage when every aspect of the economic life of Afghanistan receives a strong impetus through the large economic assistance given by the USSR.

According to statistics available, the Soviet Union has extended economic and technical assistance to more than 150 developmental projects. These projects are either completed or underway under the Soviet economic and technical assistance. A good number of these projects have been put into operation, making great contribution towards consolidation of the national economy of Afghanistan.

Among the most important projects completed with the economic and technical cooperation of the Soviet Union we can cite the Nangarhar development project, the Mazar-e Sharif fertiliser and power plant, two gas projects in the northern part of Afghanistan with a total capacity of four billion cubic meters per year, the Jangalak factories, the prefabricatting housing construction project, and the Kabul silo.

Viewed broadly, the Soviet economic and technical aids have been extended in different sectors of national economy of the country including agriculture and irrigation, mines and industries, transportation, water and power, education, communications, public health and social services.

It is estimated that more than 50 percent of the power and energy producing plants in Afghanistan have been built with the economic and technical assistance of the Soviet Union. Most important among the power plants is the Naghlo power station which generates 60 percent of the power produced in the country.

The irrigation canal of Nangarhar is constructed with a length of 70 kilometers under the assistance of the Soviet Union. This is a very useful and fruitful project which contributes towards the promotion of agriculture in the eastern province of Afghanistan. It provides the possibility of bringing 25,000 hectares of barren and arable land under irrigation.

The agreement signed in August 1979 between the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan and the Soviet Union is intended to provide fresh impetus to the development and growth of agriculture in the country. It will serve as an important factor for making Afghanistan become self-reliant in agricultural products. Under this agreement the Soviet Union will help the government of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan to raise agricultural yields through introducing agricultural machinery in the agricultural land. It is expected that the Soviet Union will help in setting up seven centers of distribution of agricultural machineries and tractors.

It must be mentioned that the agricultural machineries and tractors delivered to Afghanistan under this agreement were utilized during the implementation of spring sowing programme devised by the DRA Government under the leadership of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan.

The assistance of the Soviet Union in connecting different parts of the country through paved and asphalted roads has played a significant role in the social and economic life of Afghanistan.

The Kabul-Jabulseraj-Pol-e Khomri-Mazar-Sheberghan highway and the Qandahar-Herat-Towraghondi highway which serve as a great factor in commercial activities between various parts of the country have been constructed with the economic and technical aid and cooperation of the Soviet Union. Of the total 2500 kilometers of the existing paved highways 1500 kilometers have been constructed with the help of the Soviet Union.

In addition to these a number of airfields have been built under the Soviet economic and technical aids. In the field of education and training of professional and skilled workers the assistance of the Soviet Union is extended at all levels. It is said that the Soviet Union has trained more than 70,000 Afghan workers along with the professional and skilled workers, experts and engineers at high level. The Kabul Polytechnic Institute and the technicums of Kabul and Mazar which have been set up with the Soviet assistance and cooperation are intended to train 2,400 professional workers.

After the victory of the Sawr Revolution and especially its new evolutionary phase the size of economic assistance of the Soviet Union has expanded considerably.

In October 1979 a protocol of technical and economic cooperation was signed between the DRA and USSR. According to this protocol the Soviet Union will help in setting up five educational centres for training of skilled workers in the fields of metallurgy, construction, irrigation, agriculture and highway construction. Following the conclusion of the treaty of friendship, good neighbourliness and cooperation between the two countries, another technical and economic cooperation agreement was signed in the early 1979 between the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan and the Soviet Union.

Under this agreement the Soviet Union is expected to help in setting up copper smelting establishments in the area of Ainak cooper mine, and an oil refinery with a total capacity of 500,000 tons, and [to help in the] prospecting and extraction oil in the northern parts of Afghanistan. In addition, under this agreement, the Soviet assistance is attracted towards the construction projects of the Kabul airport and others.

The surveys of oil, gas and other minerals are continuing unabatedly. Work on the construction of an aerial [fly-over] bridge over the Amu River, highways and water and power projects, textile plants and food processing plants are proceeding ahead. These projects are of considerable significance in the economic growth of Afghanistan and further strengthening of economic and technical coooeration between the two countries.

Both countries are endeavouring to promote the level of Soviet cooperation and economic and technical assistance to Afghanistan. Massive planning is going on to utilise all possibilities of the economic development in Afghanistan.

The permanent Afghan-Soviet Economic Cooperation Commission will help not only in implementation of the projects undertaken but also in working out new projects in the interests of the working people of Afghanistan.

We hope that with all these aids and assistances of the Soviet Union the traditional friendship between the peoples of Afghanistan and the Soviet Union will develop in favour of social, economic and cultural ties between the two countries.

Soviet Trade, Aid Praised

BK270732 Kabul NEW TIMES in English 1 Mar 81 p 2

[Editorial: "Afghan-Soviet Trade Grows"]

[Text] The long standing trade relations between Afghanistan and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics has been a manifestation of the goodwill, mutual understanding and good relations between the peoples of the two countries.

No doubt, foreign trade plays an important role in economic development of the countries involved. The more these relations are based on mutual benefits and cooperation the more fruitful will be the results.

The trade relations between Afghanistan and the Soviet Union began after the establishment of diplomatic relations between Afghanistan and the Soviet Russia led by Lenin the Great, the leader of the first state of workers and peasants in the world. The Afghan-Soviet trade relations began to grow in a regular way after the conclusion of the Afghan-Soviet treaty of friendship on February 28, 1921.

Although the Second World War and the attack of Nazi Germany against the Soviet Union in 1941 brought a halt in the development of trade relations between Afghanistan and the Soviet Union, the conclusion of trade deals in 1946-1947 with a number of Afghan merchants and the ensuing agreement between the Banki Milli Afghan and the Soviet Vostokintorg on exchange of goods and the inter-governmental agreement signed in July 1950 on exchange of goods and payments paved again the way for the development of trade between Afghanistan and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

Trade between the two countries began expanding in a sizeable volume after the signing of the agreement of 1974.

The victory of the Sawr Revolution especially its new phase provided a great impetus to the expansion of trade between the two countries. The expansion of economic and technical cooperation extended to the government and people of Afghanistan by the Soviet Government has been the prime factor in further development of trade relation between the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan and the Soviet Union.

The expansion of trade relations between the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan and the Soviet Union helped implement the development projects undertaken in the benefit of the people and meet the essential needs of the country.

On the other hand the development of the volume of trade between the two friendly neighbouring countries helped the Soviet Union to meet part of its growing needs for raw materials and consumer goods.

According to statistical data the volume of exchange of goods between Afghanistan and the Soviet Union in a period of ten years--from 1969 to 1979--went up from 67.8 million rubles to 323.9 million rubles. During this period the volume of goods imported from the Soviet Union to Afghanistan rose from 40.3 million rubles to 184.2 million rubles. Likewise, the volume of Afghan export goods to the Soviet Union increased from 27.5 million to 139.7 million rubles, a 5.1-fold increase.

After the victory of the Sawr Revolution and especially its new Revolutionary phase, great changes have taken place in the trade relations between the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan and the Soviet Union. With its advanced economy the Soviet Union has extended large help to the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan in meeting its needs for machinery, means of transportation, oil, iron wares, wheat, sugar, paper, soap, matches, cotton textiles, etc.

During 1980 the percentage of the Soviet and Afghan export goods has considerably risen. According to preliminary figures the volume of trade between the two countries during the year 1980 has amounted to $670 million of which the export of Afghan goods to the Soviet Union counted for $394 million and of the Soviet goods to Afghanistan $276 million.

As the Soviet Union is going to develop and expand its assistance and economic cooperation to Afghanistan it is hoped the trade between the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan and the Soviet Union will further result in the benefit of the two countries.

The party, government and people of Afghanistan are appreciative of the growing economic and technical aids of the Soviet Union which certainly help in the industrialisation and mechanisation of agriculture in the country. With the great aids of the Soviet Union it is hoped that rapid and wide pace will be taken towards the building of the new society void of exploitation of man by man.

AFP: SOVIET TROOPS REPLACE AFGHAN ARMY IN KABUL

BK011143 Hong Kong AFP in English 1121 GMT 1 Apr 81

[Text] New Delhi, 1 Apr (AFP)--Afghan Army Divisions based in Kabul were ordered to march out of the city yesterday with the Soviets assuming responsibility for the security of the Afghan capital, Western diplomatic sources said were today.

Quoting a reliable source in Kabul, the informants here said the 4th and the 15th Armoured Divisions and the 7th and the 8th Infantry Divisions of the Afghan Army were moving out of the city apparently to fight the rebels in the provinces.

Quoting an eyewitness, the sources said several military convoys were being formed in the garrisons in and around Kabul; the convoys included tank carriers.

Heavy Soviet transport activity was noticed in Kabul airport during the past week, the sources said. More Soviet troops were flown in during the last seven days in Kabul and at the Bagram Air Base, about 56 kms (34 miles) north of the Afghan capital.

The sources could not say if the new arrivals were replacing the Soviet soldiers going home. The informants, however, said that three companies of Soviet troops boarded IL-76 aircrafts at Kabul airport last week apparently for return to the Soviet Union. The same aircraft brought a large number of smartly dressed Afghan young men, who are believed to officers of the Afghan Secre Police--Khad--sent to the Soviet Union for training.

Last Monday the city witnessed a sudden tightening of security with a dozen or more Soviet armoured personnel carriers (APC) taking up positions around the city. Several other APC's and tanks guarded the Soviet VIP guest house. The security measures were apparently for the chairman of the Soviet State Committee for Foreign Economic Relations, Semen Skachkov, who arrived in the Afghan capital on that day.

Three of the four major highways leading out of Kabul were closed for the most part of last week. The sources here reported fighting in 20 of the 29 Afghan provinces between the rebels and the Soviet-aided Afghan Government Troops.

COMMUNIQUE ON GUINEA PRESIDENT TOURE'S VISIT

BK271318 Dacca Domestic Service in English 0835 GMT 27 Mar 81

[Text] Bangladesh and Guinea have stressed the need for unity and solidarity among the Muslim countries and called for closer cooperation among them in political, economic and cultural fields. This was stated in a joint communique issued at the end of a 3-day official visit to Bangladesh by President Sekou Toure of Guinea.

The communique says a lasting solution to the Middle East problem can be achieved on the basis of total and unconditional Israeli withdrawal from occupied Arab territories, restoration of Jerusalem's Arab sovereignty and establishment of an independent homeland by the Palestinian people. Expressing deep anguish at the fratricidal war between Iran and Iraq, the two leaders of Bangladesh and Guinea hoped that it would [word indistinct] very soon and the endeavors of the Islamic good offices committee will lead to a success.

The two leaders reiterated their demand for immediate and total withdrawal of all foreign troops from Afghanistan. They expressed their solidarity with the people of Namibia and [word indistinct] fighting for independence from minority racist government. They also expressed their resolve to continue to work together for a new international economic order.

The two presidents agreed to further promote the existing cordial relations and enlarge mutually beneficial cooperation between their two countries in all fields.

ZIAUR RAHMAN SENDS GET-WELL MESSAGE TO REAGAN

BK011307 Dacca Overseas Service in English 1230 GMT 1 Apr 81

[Text] President Ziaur Rahman has expressed his deep distress at the dastardly attack made on the life of President Reagan. In a message to President Reagan, he said (?however, we are glad) to learn that there is no danger to his life and that he is on the way to recovery. The people and the Government of Bangladesh share this moment of anxiety with the Government and the people of the United States. President Zia prayed for complete and speedy recovery, good health and long life of President Reagan.

AFGHAN DIPLOMATS IN DELHI SEEK ASYLUM IN U.S.

BK311437 Hong Kong AFP in English 1257 GMT 31 Mar 81

[Text] New Delhi, 31 Mar (AFP)--Two Afghan diplomats along with an Afghan construction engineer and an accountant working in embassy here have defected and sought political asylum in the United States, highly placed sources said today. They left for Frankfurt late last night by an Air France flight to report to the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service office there, one of the nine outside the United States, the sources said.

Mohammad Faruq, commercial counseller, Abdul 'Ali Ra'ufi second cultural secretary, Mohammad Ra'uf Puya, construction engineer and Mohammad Hasan Kafi, accountant, approached the U.S. Embassy on Saturday [28 March], the sources said. A U.S. Embassy spokesman, however, refused to either confirm or deny the report. "I am not going to comment on that report. Go to Washington," the spokesman said. However, the sources confirmed that all four had established contacts with the U.S. Embassy here "some time back" and were waiting for a chance. They left with their families and children, the sources said.

Meanwhile, the Afghan Embassy here slammed its door and refused to talk to the press. Sources close to the embassy said that the authorities had kept a young Afghan working in the embassy for the last 5 months confined in a room. "They suspect him to be the go-between [between] the defectors and the Americans," a source said. The unidentified man was beaten up this morning, the sources said.

Meanwhile, a group of Afghan refugee leaders today approached the United Nations office here to stop the deportation of the Afghan to Kabul. An Indian Foreign Office spokesman later confirmed the defection of the two Afghan diplomats. Without indentifying the diplomats, the spokesman said the government was informed of the defections after the diplomats had left the country. Asked about the destination of the diplomats, he merely said "we understand they have left the Afghan Embassy and proceeded abroad." The spokesman said he had no information about the other two Afghans, a construction engineer and an accountant, who were also reported to have defected.

CONCERN EXPRESSED OVER U.S. ARMS FOR PAKISTAN

Rao: 'New Tensions in Area'

BK311622 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 31 Mar 81

[Text] External Affairs Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao made it clear in the Lok Sabha today that the arming of Pakistan by the United States will lead to new tensions in the area, give a setback to the process of normalization and have many other repercussions. He was replying to the 3-day debate on his ministry's demands for grants which the house later voted.

Referring to the concern expressed by members over the reported induction of massive arms into Pakistan, Mr Rao expressed the hope that wiser counsel would prevail with Washington. He said the Indian ambassador in Washington was scheduled to meet U.S. Secretary of State General Haig today in this connection.

Replying to a question, he said India is prepared for talks with the United States, but there has to be a necessary preparedness as display of any panic will be counter-productive. Mr Rao made it clear that it is for Pakistan to make up its mind. He indicated that attempts are being made to bring Pakistan into some kind of an arrangement. Islamabad has to decide whether it is prepared for that or would like to remain out and play its role as a nonaligned country.

The foreign minister assured members that the government would continue to be vigilant. It knows what is happening and also what it has to do in view of these happenings, he added. On Afghanistan, Mr Rao said the problem has become infinitely more difficult as it has now got mixed up with the general question of security of the Gulf region. Mr Rao disclosed that China has invited an Indian parliamentary delegation to visit that country. Referring to India's relations with its neighboring countries, the foreign minister said these have to be on the basis of sovereign equality and mutual benefit. It is inherent in being neighbors that problems should arise, but the test of statesmanship is that they should cooperate with each other to their mutual advantage.

Mr Rao expressed satisfaction at the growing economic cooperation with Nepal and Bhutan. He said every effort is being made to go ahead with the Karnali [hydroelectric] project in Nepal. There has been steady progress on several issues with Bangladesh including land and maritime boundaries, railway transit facilities and checking illegal movement across the border. On Farakka, he said the short-term agreement is coming to an end soon and we have either to find ways of salvaging it or think of some alternative course. India is concerned not only because of the Calcutta port, but also because the interests of Bihar and Uttar Pradesh are at stake, India cannot take it lightly, nor of course can Bangladesh do so. Both the countries will have to show statesmanship and patience to find a solution to the question, he added.

Mr Rao said the proposed conference of littoral countries on the Indian Ocean must be held this year if it is to be of any utility, but various pretexts have been advanced and it is doubtful whether the United States would take part in it. Big powers have created vested interests in the ocean and are exploiting it to the full. He refuted allegations that the nonalignment is weakening and declared that it has now matured into a purposeful movement. While the aligned are trying to destroy the world, it is the nonaligned which are trying to save it, he added.

Gonsalves To Go to U.S.

BK311603 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 31 Mar 81

[Text] A secretary in the External Affairs Ministry, Eric Gonsalves, will visit Washington to hold talks with the U.S. officials on the supply of arms to Pakistan. A foreign office spokesman told newsmen in New Delhi today that the talks will also cover a broad range of global issues and bilateral relations. The visit might take place on 16 and 17 April.

TANZANIAN PRESIDENT NYERERE VISITS DELHI FOR TALKS

Arrival on 30 Mar

BK301245 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 30 Mar 81

[Text] Tanzanian President Julius Nyerere was given a ceremonial welcome on his arrival in New Delhi this afternoon on a 5-day state visit. Nyerere and Madame Nyerere were received at the airport by President Sanjiva Reddy, Prime Minister Mrs Gandhi and others.

Speaking at the airport the Tanzanian president said the main purpose of his visit is to have discussions with the Indian leaders on bilateral and international issues. Such discussions will help further strengthen relations between the two countries.

Welcoming the dignitary, President Sanjiva Reddy said that the policy of nonalignment is best suited to promote international peace and security. He expressed happiness over the close cooperation between India and Tanzania. President Reddy is hosting a dinner in honor of Nyerere tonight.

State Banquet

BK311050 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1000 GMT 31 Mar 81

[Text] India and Tanzania have reaffirmed their determination to convert the Indian Ocean into a zone of peace and have expressed concern at the increasing big-power concentration in the region. Tanzanian President Julius Nyerere said at a banquet given by President Sanjiva Reddy that both Tanzania and India have interests in the Indian Ocean. He pointed out that foreign bases are being established in the area.

Reddy, in his welcome address, said the Tanzanian president's visit has provided timely opportunity to review the rapid deterioration in the world security [word indistinct]. He said in recent months there had been a perceptible aggravation of international tensions. Detente has suffered a serious setback.

In our own proximity, in Southeast and southwest Asia, the escalation to tensions has caused us deep concern. Speaking on the situation in South Africa, Reddy said formidable difficulties would need to be overcome before a satisfactory solution could be found for the achievement of Namibian independence.

Both the presidents called upon the restructuring of relations between the developed and the developing countries to help establish a new international economic order.

Talks With Gandhi

BK131300 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 31 Mar 81

[Text] Prime Minister Mrs Gandhi has reiterated India's full support to the cause of the freedom struggle in Africa, particularly in Namibia. This assurance was given by her to Tanzanian President Julius Nyerere during their talks in New Delhi today.

The prime minister called on President Nyerere and the two leaders exchanged views on critical developments in the international situation. Both of them reviewed problems arising out of the great power confrontation in different parts of the world, especially in the Afro-Asian region.

In this context Mrs Gandhi emphasized the need for like minded countries, like India and Tanzania, to work cooperatively and collectively through the nonaligned for strengthening the forces of peace. President Nyerere and Mrs Gandhi also emphasized the need to counter the process of apartheid and racialism practiced by South Africa.

AUSTRIA'S PAHR MEETS WITH ENERGY, COMMERCE MINISTERS

BK251715 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 25 Mar 81

[Text] Austria today offered credit for financing India's planned hydroelectric projects and agreed to undertake feasibility studies and to provide mining know-how. The scope for India-Austrian collaboration in power development was discussed in New Delhi between Energy Minister A.B.A. Ghani Khan Choudhury and Foreign Minister of Austria Dr Willibald Pahr.

The Austrian foreign minister also had talks with Union Commerce Minister Pranab Mukherjee. The two leaders discussed the scope for collaboration in the production of iron ore pellets in India as well as in third countries. The question of duty free entry of Indian agricultural and industrial products and the textile agreement were discussed during the meeting. Dr Pahr indicated that Austria would consider the buyback arrangements for some of the projects under collaboration.

INDO-SOVIET AGREEMENT ON PLANNING SIGNED

BK311503 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 31 Mar 81

[Text] An agreement on Indo-Soviet cooperation in the field of planning was signed in New Delhi yesterday by Vice Chairman of the USSR State Planning Committee V. Bachirin and member-secretary Manmohan Singh.

CPI PANEL WANTS TO SACK FORMER CHAIRMAN DANGE

BK291155 Hong Kong AFP in English 1126 GMT 29 Mar 81

[Text] New Delhi, 29 Mar (AFP)--The Cental Executive Committee of the pro-Moscow Communist Party of India (CPI) today recommended the expulsion of its former chairman, Shripad Amrit Dange, from the party.

"The CPI is left with no option but to recommend to the National Council that S.A. Dange be expelled from the party for his persistent defiance and violation of all party discipline and for his other anti-party activities," a statement issued by the party here said.

Mr Dange was criticised by the dominant CPI leadership group, led by Secretary C. Rajeswar Rao, for his latest "provocative" action of attending the first congress of the newly formed rival All-India Communist Party (AICP) recently. The new party is led by Mr Dange's daughter, Rosa Despande.

Mr Dange resigned from the chairmanship of the party but retained his membership to the National Council following sharp differences with Mr Rao and other ranking leaders over the latter's policy of bitter opposition to Prime Minister Indira Gandhi.

SIND HIGH COURT REJECTS BHUTTO HABEAS CORPUS PLEA

BK311501 Hong Kong AFP in English 1445 GMT 31 Mar 81

[Text] Karachi, 31 Mar (AFP)--The Sind high court today dismissed a habeas corpus petition filed on behalf of Begum Nusrat Bhutto, widow of executed former Prime Minister Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto, and her daughter Benazir Bhutto.

The women were jailed by the martial law regime earlier this month, following the hijacking of a Pakistani airliner to Kabul and Damascus. The court dismissed the joint petition on the grounds that the recent changes in the constitutional law of the court had deprived the high courts of the powers to interfere with the working of the military regime.

In Peshawar, meanwhile, the high court handed down a sentence today of 5 years imprisonment and a fine of rupees 100,000 on Yahya Bakhtiar, former attorney-general of Pakistan and a defence lawyer for Mr Bhutto at his murder trial. Mr Bakhtiar was convicted of corrupt practices in the 1977 elections for the National Assembly, according to reports reaching here.

ISLAMIC PARTIES' LEADERS DISCUSS ALLIANCE

BK010813 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0600 GMT 1 Apr 81

[Text] According to the ASSOCIATED PRESS of PAKISTAN, vigorous efforts are being made to forge an alliance between those defunct political parties which firmly believe in the national ideology and which feel the necessity to unite and face the designs of various antistate elements. The news agency, quoting sources close to the parties concerned, says they have felt the need for an alliance due to the terrorist and subversive activities of the miscreants whose collusion with foreign elements has been proved.

Leaders of these parties believing in Islam are holding talks on forging an alliance. They include Pir Saheb of Pagaro, Khan Abdul Qayyum Khan, Mr Yusuf Khattack, Khawaja Mohammad Safdar, Sarbar Abdul Qayyum, Maulana Abdul Sattar Khan Niazi, (Malik Mohammad Altafi), (Sayed Barkat Ahmed Shah), (Maulana Abdulla Darkhasti), and Mian Tufail Mohammad. It is expected that many leaders from Baluchistan, Sind and the NWFP will soon arrive in Lahore to join the talks.

WORLD BANK PRESIDENT MCNAMARA CALLS ON ZIAUL HAQ

BK290727 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 28 Mar 81

[Excerpts] World Bank President Robert McNamara arrived in Islamabad this evening on a 4-day visit to Pakistan. Talking to newsmen at the airport, he said he had come to Pakistan to learn about its development plans and to study how the World Bank could provide still greater assistance to meet its developmental needs. He said the bank has substantially increased its assistance to Pakistan in recent years which roughly (?amounts to) between $60 and $79 million annually. This increase, he said, had been justified by Pakistan in view of its good performance in boosting its economy.

World Bank President Robert McNamara called on President Gen Mohammad Ziaul Haq in Rawalpindi this evening. He was accompanied by two vice presidents of the bank. During the meeting lasting an hour, McNamara held discussions with the president on Pakistan's development programs. Federal Finance Minister Ghulam Ishaq Khan was also present.

LEADERS, MEDIA VIEW REAGAN ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT

Khomeyni Comments

LD311824 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 31 Mar 81

[Speech by Ayatollah Khomeyni to members of Islamic high school student associations at Hoseyniyeh Jamaran in Tehran on 31 March--recorded, duration 26 minutes]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. I have a few words to say about Islamic associations, including those high school students and other associations that, praise to God, have come into existence throughout the country. One point about the matter concerns the title "Islamic association," which is a commitment on the part of the associations toward Islam.

We are now just starting our work. We have inherited a country in which everything depended upon foreigners. Everything that was done here was an immitation of what was taking place abroad. If a school was being set up it was a dependent one; if they trained soldiers they were dependent soldiers. It was said that when Kennedy was assassinated, eulogies were composed for our little children to recite in schools; they were mourning for Kennedy. And today, when one of his other brothers has been assassinated--whether it be successful or otherwise is something which makes no difference to us--the situation is not such that we will go into mourning for him.

At any rate, you should change yourselves from what prevailed in the past, from a dependent attitude of mind. Those in the nation who are responsible for the training of youngsters and others should strive to bring up the youngsters with an independent mind, for it is they who will take control of the country in the future.

Raja'i on Attempt

LD311738 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 31 Mar 81

[Excerpts] Following the prime minister's meeting with the imam of the nation, he talked to a PARS correspondent.

The correspondent asked the prime minister to comment on the attempted assassination of Ronald Reagan. The prime minister replied: In my opinion Reagan and all those who think the same as Reagan are doomed to be destroyed and what has been done is idiomatically a kind of physical state, that is, America has lost a body. [sentence as heard] The entire ruling attitude in America is the same as Reagan's thoughts. We have also said before that we do not differentiate between Carter and Reagan. You are well aware who will replace Reagan if he died. George Bush will replace him. He is worse than the two already mentioned.

Therefore, with the substance of our Islamic revolution, we must be able to expose the truth of the matter, God willing. Otherwise, it is natural that a person should hope that his enemy's forces will lose one member. That way the enemy would be heading for destruction. But we are hopeful that our revolution will be able to neutralize this affair. [as heard]

Arabic Commentary

GF311855 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 31 Mar 81

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Some 2 months into his presidency, U.S. President Reagan was yesterday the target of an assassination attempt.

Following it, he was admitted to George Washington Hospital for the removal of the bullet that almost penetrated his heart.

The incident raised a torrent of questions regarding the identity of the attacker. His skin color indicates that he is not a black. The socialist countries' condemnation of the assassination indicates that the adventurer is not backed by a foreign country and is not a communist party member. Therefore, all the signs are that the attacker is an American citizen. Hence the question which all American observers could not answer: If the attacker is not instigated from abroad and is not a black, what are his motives for committing this act?

The answer to the question badly needs a reference to the White House files of the past months and refers to Reagan's statements since he entered the White House. Yesterday's incident throws light on Reagan's programs during his brief period in the presidency, regarding both domestic and foreign issues--programs that are all contrary to the aspirations of the American and other peoples of the world.

Reagan is the first American president to rob his people of subsidies granted by the Federal government. He reduced expenditure on domestic services and allocated the funds thus saved, totaling millions, to the production of arms. Moreover, production of the neutron bomb is one of the decisions of the Reagan administration. It reversed a decision by the Carter administration to halt production of the neutron bomb.

Econmic reports indicate that the rate of unemployment has increased dramatically during Reagan's administration. There are 8 million unemployed and it is expected that there will be 10 million by mid-1981.

In addition to rash policy at home, Reagan has pursued a foreign policy line opposed to human rights and to the aspirations of peoples who seek peace, independence and freedom. He instructed his administration to give full assistance to the military clique in El Salvador. About 1,000 U.S. experts have arrived in San Salvador to crush the popular uprising there. The manner of dealing with South Africa is the same as that during Carter's administration. Indeed, U.S. support for the facist states increased with the new administration. As for U.S. interference in Angola, it is one of the new policies of the Reagan administration. Despite the U.S. decision not to interfere in Angolan affairs, the Reagan administration has disregarded this decision and given itself the right to give assistance to secessionist movements in this African state.

In addition to these U.S. transgressions, we cannot ignore the Reagan administration's great and constant support for the racist State of Israel and its attempts to emasculate the PLO, describing it as a terrorist organization. Reagan is the first U.S. President to defy public opinion and accuse world liberation movements of terrorism and to ascribe to them various false accusations and claims that stem from his hatred of all peoples of the world.

In additon to all these crimes, there is another crime to be added to his record of crimes...[10-second break in transmission]...a favorable ground for any action of the type that occurred yesterday.

Thus, it is no wonder that an American citizen should penetrate the lines and fire five shots at his President, who has only been in office 2 months. The disaster that has befallen the United States and the world during the Reagan administration prompts every proud and free man to halt this black tide and end this deviant presence in the international community and put an end to the era of new imperialism that has surpassed past eras in exploitation and in hostility to struggling peoples.

Tehran English

LD312310 Tehran in English to Europe 1930 GMT 31 Mar 81

[Excerpts] The assassination attempt made on the life of Reagan, the 40th U.S. President, who has only been in office for the past 2 months, has met with widespread reaction in all political circles throughout the world and indeed has overshadowed all other events.

Reagan was the target of an assassination attempt which is likely to happen to any American citizen at any moment since the sale and possession of arms is allowed in the United States. This very fact has been the topic of discussion in the American Senate and other American legal institutions for the past several years since the wave of assassinations and violence has spread throughout this country. What is interesting to note is that Reagan himself is one of the staunch opponents of a ban on the control of arms in the United States [as heard] and feels that such a ban would threaten individual freedoms in that country.

All in all, the preparations which had been underway for the attempted assassination of the U.S. President under the present conditions, as well as its being implemented, is not a matter to be analyzed from the point of view of the sale of arms in the United States. Medical observers believe the basis for this action lies in the problems which have been created behind the scenes by the horrible and imbalanced diplomacy and economy of the United States.

The very first point of this assassination attempt on the life of Ronald Reagan, the U.S. President, should be (?sought) from the view of the CIA and FBI. (?Various actions) which until now have not been attached to any political viewpoint will most certainly act as a pretext with the American security agencies so that the oppressive atmosphere which had been prevalent in the United States during the days of the Vietnam war and the Watergate scandal would prevail there again. This would also act as another pretext for the American federal (?police) and the CIA to make the effort to increase their fields of authority. This is going on at a time when the rate of crime in the United States is on the increase and the American police cannot do anything to confront this issue.

The second point to be considered relates to the CIA. According to the U.S. Constitution, in case of the occurrence of an attempt on the life of the U.S. President, his vice president will replace him. Immediately after this assassination attempt Geroge Bush, the American vice president, entered the White House and took over Reagan's responsibilities. On the other hand, the political background of George Bush, a former head of the U.S. espionage organization, will be a most interesting topic of discussion since even before the election campaign his background had created problems to his being nominated as the U.S. vice-president. Informed foreign political observers and circles are already voicing their worries over the coming into power of the former CIA head, following which will come new CIA executive action. However, one has to wait and see what will happen since the physicians who are treating Reagan have assured that during the next several days Reagan will be in a position to make all the decisions and will lead all the American executive politicians. However, the physicians are not openly admitting the fact that, despite all their cures and medical attention, Reagan is 70 years old and that he does not stand much of a chance of survival (?following) the assassination attempt.

Lebanese Paper Cited

GF311503 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1430 GMT 31 Mar 81

[Text] Commenting on the attempt to assassinate U.S. President Ronald Reagan, the Lebanese newspaper AS-SAFIR says today: It is the first clear declaration, in bullets, of the failure of Reagan's policy. AS-SAFIR adds: What John Hinkley, the man who fired at Reagan, did confirms the end of the cowboy era and its concepts and its pattern of relations with others.

In an article entitled "Bullets at The Cowboy," AS-SAFIR writes: One person in Reagan's position can terrorize the world. However, there is always a John Warnock Hinkley who can respond to the terrorist with the same weapon of terrorism, take the gun from his hand and plant bullets in his lung.

AS-SAFIR continues: The cowboy not only kills but in the majority of cases is himself killed.

GOOD OFFICES DELEGATION CONCLUDES VISIT 31 MAR

GF311150 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 31 Mar 81

[Text] The members of the committee commissioned to study the war Iraq has imposed on Iran left Tehran this morning. The delegation was seen off at the airport by brother Dr Abolhasan Bani-Sadr, president and commander in chief of the armed forces.

PARS has learned that Guinea President Ahmed Sekou Toure, Bangladesh President Ziaur Rahman and Islamic Conference Secretary General Habib Chatti held a 40-minute meeting this morning with President Bani-Sadr, during which President Sekou Toure--on behalf of the delegation--delivered proposals the delegation offered to President Bani-Sadr during its meeting last night. Dr Bani-Sadr, president and commander in chief of the armed forces, informed the delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran's views.

Habib Chatti, the Islamic Conference Organization's secretary general, told PARS that the delegation will return to Jidda following its visit to Baghdad and will then return to Tehran with new proposals.

DUZDUZANI TO HEAD INVESTIGATION OF IRAQI CRIMES

LD311226 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 31 Mar 81

[Text] According to the Central News Bureau, the prime minister has issued the following decree, addressed to the minister of national guidance:

Brother 'Abbas Duzduzani, minister of national guidance: With the help of Almighty God you are hereby appointed secretary general of an Islamic conference to investigate the crimes committed by Saddam's regime. The (?establishment) of this conference, with the participation of international figures, is considered necessary. We hope that you will do your best to ensure the achievement of the best possible results.

Gharazi Appointed Deputy

LD311324 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 31 Mar 81

[Order issued by Islamic guidance minister to official in charge of Supreme Defense Council Publicity Headquarters; date and place of issuance not given]

[Text] Brother Kamal Gharazi, in charge of the Publicity Headquarters of the Supreme Defense Council. You are hereby appointed as the executive deputy to an Islamic Conference to investigate the Saddam regime's crimes. We hope that with the help of Almighty God you will do your utmost to realize the objectives of the Islamic revolution and to organize the conference in the best possible war.

PRIME MINISTRY URGES PARTICIPATION IN MARCH

LD311404 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 31 Mar 81

[Statement issued by the Public Relations Office of the Prime Ministry]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Muslim and combative compatriots: 12 Farvardin [1 April] is the second anniversary of the formation of the nucleus of the Islamic Republic's Government, based on your votes, revolutionary and noble nation. We have achieved this holy government under circumstances in which different kinds of governments had already been experienced throughout the world. Following the imam's guidelines to establish an Islamic government, we dismissed all other kinds of government--Eastern and Western alike.

Over the past 2 years, this champion nation has never ceased in its endeavor to advance the holy government of Islam and realize the dream of our martyrs, which is the self-same rule of God and of the meek inheriting the earth, and has always invested life and wealth in replacing divisive ideology with an Islamic content based on the holy verses of the Koran.

It is no exaggeration to say that there are not many governments which enjoy such support from their nations, based on the teachings of human prosperity throughout history. It is not false to say that each and every one of you in this noble nation are members of the Cabinet of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Now, in order to glorify this great day and to commemorate the blood of the martyrs who sacrificed their life for the establishment of such a government, we will all march together so that limitless waves of humanity may brighten the unity created by the teachings and once again shatter the false dreams of the enemies of Islam and of the revolution, and of the infidel saddam. While chanting united slogans inspired by Islam, we will guard the values that we have gained.

MINISTRY WARNS MARCHERS TO MAINTAIN DISCIPLINE

LD311338 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 31 Mar 81

[Text] The Central News Bureau reports that in a statement the Ministry of Interior of the Islamic Republic congratulated the Muslim and martyr-raising nation on the arrival of the third spring of freedom and the second anniversary of the Islamic Republic of Iran and asked all the committed brothers and sisters to take part in the glorious march on the Islamic Republic of Iran's day to commemorate the everlasting memory of the martyrs. While wishing long life and health to our dear leader, the imam of the nation, Khomeyni, the idol breaker, the founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the statement went on, they should try to carry only photographs of the imam of the nation and slogans helping to maintain unity and refrain from chanting any divisive slogans or carrying photographs of personalities or officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

It is noted in this statement that the police force and revolutionary institutions should try and maintain discipline during the ceremony as much as possible and those who shout divisive slogans and upset the imam and the pure memory of the martyrs or try to create distrubances and anarchy will be dealt with seriously. This unity and uniformity will be hard blow to the blabbering mouth of the East and the West and the enemies of Islam and the Islamic revolution of Iran.

EVIN PRISON WARDEN DISCUSSES CONDITIONS, RUMORS

LD311940 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 31 Mar 81

[Text] According to the Central News Bureau, the head of Evin Prison took part in a press and radio-television conference this morning and answered questions put to him by various correspondents.

Commenting on various rumors spread about the Evin Prison, he said: We have decided to allocate two telephone numbers for this issue and we call upon our dear compatriots to inform us of any rumor that they might hear. At present the officials in charge of this prison are prepared to answer questions on this issue every Thursday afternoon between 4100 and 1700, using phone number 298098.

The supervisor of Evin Prison, while presenting some documents, told reporters: Subjects and rumors, which originated from inside the prison, are the work of some minigroups such as Cherikha-ye feda'yan-e Khalq, Mojahedin-e Khalq organization, Komeleh and other pseudoleftist groups. He added: These groups have started to spread rumors because they are not able to harm the islamic revolution in any other way.

He then talked about facilities provided at Evin Prison and said: In this prison we have a library, a bakery, a hospital [presumably a clinic] and a shop; all of which are run by the prisoners themselves.

While referring to the rumors spread about the prison books, he said: We only place Islamic, historical and scientific books at the disposal of the prisoners; we do not place Marxist and other types of books that we think might be harmful with them.

The supervisor of Evin Prison said: Some of the prisoners molest and torment security officers in order to create tension. For instance, they spit in their faces and pour boiling water on their hands to force them to react. Then they will cry out that they have been tortured [presumably as a result of the reaction of security guards]. Some of them throw away their food in order to force us to stop giving them food.

He finally said: When it is proved to us that a prisoner is no longer a danger to society, we shall return him to society.

PRISONERS PARDONED BY KHOMEYNI OVER HOLIDAY

Six Pardoned

GF291709 Tabriz Domestic Service in Azeri 1430 GMT 29 Mar 81

[Text] The Islamic Revolution (?Court) of (?Sharaf) has ruled that six prisoners pardoned by the imam be released from the prison at police headquarters.

134 Released in Mashhad

GF291524 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1430 GMT 29 Mar 81

[Text] On the occasion of the third spring of liberty and in line with the amnesty granted by Imam Khomeyni, leader of the revolution and founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran, 134 prisoners have been released in Mashhad. They were condemned for drug trafficking, addiction and other crimes.

AFP on Amnesty

NC291212 Paris AFP in English 1205 GMT 29 Mar 81

[Text] Tehran, 29 Mar (AFP)--More than 1,000 prisoners have been freed in an amnesty marking the Iranian New Year which began eight days ago, the newspaper ISLAMIC REPUBLIC reported today.

It said 1,022 drug addicts and peddlers who had repented were released, along with 25 others held for taking alcohol or drugs or for political misdemeanours.

The paper added that two prostitutes were executed by firing squad at Eslamabad-Khalb in southwest Iran on Tuesday after being sentenced to death by the local Islamic court.

BANI-SADR INSPECTS KHUZESTAN FRONT 31 MAR

GF312014 Tehran International Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 31 Mar 81

[Text] Bani-Sadr, president and commander in chief of the armed forces, has left for Khuzestan Province accompanied by the acting chief of Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, General Fallahi. The president inspected a number of installations behind the front in Khuzestan Province.

Meets With Commanders

LD312124 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 31 Mar 81

[Text] During a meeting today in the presence of President Dr Seyyed Abolhasan Bani-Sadr, the commander in chief of the armed forces, the situation at the battlefronts was investigated. According to PARS, during this meeting, which several military commanders, some ministers and also several responsible local authorities also attended, the general situation at the battlefronts and the necessary actions for flushing out the disintegrating mercenary Armed Forces of Iraq were subjects of discussion and exchange of views. They made the necessary decisions.

TEAM INVESTIGATING SHIRAZI ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT

GF311857 Shiraz Domestic Service in Persian 1830 GMT 31 Mar 81

[Text] Members of a committee from the president's office have arrived in Shiraz. They met with Ayatollah Rabbani-Shirazi. The visiting team has come to Shiraz to investigate the assassination attempt against this guardian of the Constitution.

ERITREAN ENVOYS DELIVER MESSAGE TO RAFSANJANI

GF311600 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1430 GMT 31 Mar 81

[Text] The members of the Eritrean Liberation Front Bureau in the Islamic Republic of Iran met with Majlis Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Hashemi-Rafsanjani in the Majlis today. PARS reports that during the meeting the members of the bureau conveyed a message from brother Ahmed Mohamed Nasser, chairman of the Eritrean Liberation Front Revolutionary Council, to Hojjat ol-Eslam Rafsanjani. They briefed the Majlis speaker on the state of the Eritrean awakening and expressed their satisfaction at the international support given by the Islamic Republic of Iran to the Eritrean awakening.

At the end of the meeting Majlis Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Hashemi-Rafsanjani expressed hope that there will be increased cooperation with the Eritrean Liberation Front in the future.

GHARAZI CALLS ON JAPAN'S CHIEF CABINET SECRETARY

OW280615 Tokyo KYODO in English 0549 GMT 28 Mar 81

[Text] Tokyo, 28 Mar, KYODO--Kamal Gharazi, managing director of Iran's PARS NEWS AGENCY, stressed Saturday the Iranian Government has no intention of opening peace talks on its current border conflict with Iraq, unless the latter withdraws from Iranian territory.

Gharazi made this remark when he paid a courtesy call on Chief Cabinet Secretary Kiichi Miyazawa.

Gharazi, now in Japan as part of an Asian tour, said the Iranian Government has no plan to ask for the early truce.

The Islamic nations meeting is the only arena to discuss armistice issues between the two warring parties, he explained.

But Gharazi stressed in his talks with Miyazawa that Iraq should abide by the 1975 treaty settling the border between the two nations.

After the meeting, Miyazawa told reporters he refrained from expressing his view on resumption of construction work on a Japanese-Iranian joint venture for producing petrochemical products in the Bandar-e Khomeyni oilfield.

GHARAZI MEETS PRC FOREIGN MINISTER IN BEIJING

GF310735 Tehran International Service in Arabic 0400 GMT 31 Mar 81

[Text] Brother Kamal Gharazi, the official in charge of information in the Supreme Defense Council and director of PARS, has met with PRC Foreign Minister Hua Huang. Brother Gharazi is currently on a Far East tour to expand information relations with the countries included in the tour. The meeting was attended by the ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Beijing.

Iran's stand on the war that Iraq has imposed on the Islamic Republic was explained. Brother Gharazi told the PRC foreign minister that Saddam is not the one who is fighting Iran. The superpowers are fighting us and are trying to weaken the Islamic revolution in Iran in order to gain more successes in the region. He added that Saddam is bound to fall following the losses he has suffered and that his masters are trying to rescue him from this crisis.

He added that if Third World countries foresee the escalating threat of the expansion of superpower influence in the region, they must keep Saddam from providing the appropriate climate for the expansion of the influence of the two superpowers—the United States and the Soviet Union--in the region.

ENVOY TO JIDDA ON CONDITIONS TO END WAR

LD290856 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0720 GMT 29 Mar 81

[Text] Riyadh, 29 Mar (SPA)--The Iranian charge d'affaires in Jidda, Nahadi Nadyan, has declared that Iran welcomes the resumption of efforts by the Islamic good offices committee, which is trying to solve the Iraqi-Iranian conflict, and is ready to cooperate with it.

In a statement published by the Saudi papers AL-JAZIRAH and 'UKAZ, Nadyan expresses his hope for the success of the committee's efforts in finding a solution that will put an end to the war and restore lasting peace to the region.

He affirms that Iran does not want the war to go on, not even for another hour, and that it has no ambitions on even one inch of land. We consider peace to be the cornerstone for bolstering cooperation with all our brothers, he said, and peace is what we work for.

With respect to previous Iranian conditions for ending the conflict, Nadyan reiterates his country's insistence on the withdrawal of Iraqi forces prior to any cease-fire. He points out that if the problem is one of borders, Iran is fully prepared and indeed welcomes any negotiations in this regard. But the basis for such negotiations, he adds, must be the 1975 Iraqi-Iranian agreement concluded between the two countries in Algiers. Nadyan praises Iranian-Saudi relations which, he says, are getting stronger day after day and we are anxious to develop them.

He also declares that his country supports the call for holy jihad which was raised by Deputy Prime Minister and Crown Prince Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz. He adds that there can be no solution for the Middle East question except by the hands of the Muslims. He denounces the Zionist engagement in trickery.

In reply to a question about a recent Iranian violation of Kuwaiti airspace, he says: We are not in a state of war with Kuwait or any country other than Iraq. I am confident it was a mistake.

RED CROSS REPRESENTATIVE ARRIVES IN TEHRAN

GF291834 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 29 Mar 81

[Excerpt] At the invitation of the Iranian Red Crescent Society, a Red Cross representative has arrived in Tehran to investigate the Iraqi aggression, the war victims and the residential areas that have been subjected to the attacks of Saddam's regime.

[Name indistinct] and the delegation accompanying him have visited the southern and western residential areas that have been subjected to the Iraqi aggression. They have also visited refugee camps in Jiroft, Esfahan, Dezful and Ahvaz.

RED CROSS OFFICIAL COMMENTS ON POW SITUATION

GF300603 Tehran International Service in Turkish 1830 GMT 29 Mar 81

[Excerpt] The head of the Red Cross delegation in Iran, (Tharon), was received by President Bani-Sadr this afternoon. He gave the president a report he has compiled on the situation of Iranian and Iraqi prisoners of war.

After (Tharon's) meeting with the president, our correspondent asked him if he has been able to contact Iraqi officials about securing the release of the captured Iranian petroleum minister, Mohammad Javad Tondguyan. He replied: We cannot hold talks to secure the release of the prisoners of war. We are not legally emplowered to do so. However, we have asked Iraqi officials to allow us to meet with the Iranian petroleum minister. Unfortunately, however, we have not received a positive reply.

(Tharon) concluded: The chairman of the International Red Cross organization will be visiting Baghdad very soon. We hope he will be able to contact Tondguyan.

JOINT STAFF COMMUNIQUE 452 CITES BATTLE SUCCESSES

LD311900 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 31 Mar 81

[Communique 452 of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In His exalted name. The combatants of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic, wishing glory to the pure souls of the martyrs on the path of truth and liberation, offer their greeting to the leader of the revolution and imam of the nation and the honorable people of Iran on the occasion 12 Farvardin [1 April], the proud anniversary of the establishment of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the day of divine rule and the day of establishment of the government of Islamic justice, and will try, by performing their duties, to bring final victory to our heroic nation. Some operations of the past 48 hours by our combative brother soldiers and other combatants of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran are hereby brought to the attention of the Muslim and revolutionary nation of Iran:

In the southern region:

1. On 29 March, during an exchange of artillery and heavy arms fire between the combatants of Islam and Saddam's invading forces on one of Abadan's fronts, one heavy mortar, one bulldozer and one enemy machinegun were destroyed and a number of enemy personnel were either killed or wounded.

2. Yesterday, Abadan came under artillery and heavy arms fire. Our forces retaliated by opening fire on the positions of the mercenaries of Saddam's armed forces, destroying three of their trenches, one mortar launcher and one ammunition dump.

Also, the military positions of the enemy on the Al-Faw-Basra axis, inside Iraqi territory, became the target of the artillery fire of our forces. As a result, several enemy trenches and foxholes were destroyed and the movement of a motorized enemy column in this region was halted.

The self-sacrificing combatants of the navy also opened fire on positions of the Iraqi aggressive forces in the occupied part of Khuninshahr yesterday, destroying one enemy emplacement and killing or wounding several of the invaders.

3. On the Susangerd front, exchange of artillery and mortar fire continued between the warriors of the ground forces and Saddam's aggressive forces. Our forces preserved their fire superiority throughout.

In the western region, on the Sumar front:

4. From 0700 through 1100 yesterday, the self-sacrificing combatants of the Ground Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran opened heavy fire on enemy positions. As a result one enemy personnel carrier and four bulldozers were destroyed and several of their personnel were either killed or wounded.

Intense exchange of artillery fire continued on other western fronts between our self-sacrificing combatants and Saddam's mercenary forces. As a result, one enemy vehicle and two trenches were destroyed.

5. Yesterday, several encroaching Iraqi planes, which were trying to violate the air-space of some of the cities in the southern and western border regions, faced the vigilant air defense units of these regions and were forced to flee.

6. During the battle operations of 29 March, 13 combatants of the ground forces submitted their pure souls to our Islamic homeland and joined the glorious caravan of the martyrs; may their souls be happy.

[Signed] The Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran

VOICE OF IRAN: SOVIETS TRANSPORT ARMS VIA IRAN

GF311446 (Clandestine) Voice of Iran in Persian 0330 GMT 31 Mar 81

[Text] According to observers, following ratification of the transit agreement between Iran and the Soviet Union by the Islamic Majlis during a secret session a month ago, the Soviet Government began to exploit the agreement immediately. According to these reports, every day caravans of trucks loaded with weapons and armaments enter Herat, the second most important city of Afghanistan, via the Saraksh, Qushan and Mashhad roads.

The Tehran regime announced the Soviet-Iranian transit agreement some time ago but refused to discuss particular clauses. It is said that the so-called Islamic regime in Tehran, in return for the use of Jolfa port for its food and other imports, was forced to sign the agreement.

VOICE OF IRAN CITES MADANI ON REGIME'S MISTAKES

GF311627 (Clandestine) Voice of Iran in Persian 0330 GMT 31 Mar 81

[From the press review]

[Text] We start our press review with a letter from Commodore Madani to Ayatollah Khomeyni which has been published in AKBAR-E IRAN of West Germany. Commodore Madani, former commander of Khomeyni's army, war minister of the so-called Islamic government, Khuzestan governor general and commander of the navy under Ayatollah Khomeyni, was able to escape the reign of terror in Tehran and go abroad. He has written two letters to his leader, Ayatollah Khomeyni, so far. Madani's letter is very detailed. We quote only his analysis of the difficulties created by the mullah's government for Iran.

The mullahs' disagreement with the organization of law enforcement and the armed forces, problems in getting spare parts, refusal to accept the general amnesty proposal, attacks on the university and closure of educational faculties and fighting against various tribes are some of the problems Madani cites in his letter. Other matters the exiled naval commander of Ayatollah Khomeyni considers to be the fault of the mullah's government are: pitting Iran and Islam against one another, the circus of the so-called student followers of the imam, the infamous purges, the shameful activities of the lawless counterrevolutionary courts, aggression against the rights of women and putting phony clergymen in positions for which they are unqualified.

The magazine adds: Khomeyni's meaningless objections to the lion and sun emblem, the mullahs' groundless animosity toward nationalists and reference to the ridiculous and empty matter of the export of the revolution are other misfortunes that, according to Seyyed Ahmad Madani, have resulted in the present circumstances in Iran.

VOICE OF IRAN ON 1 APR MARCH PERPARATIONS

GF311440 (Clandestine) Voice of Iran in Persian 0330 GMT 31 Mar 81

[Text] Following the announcement of the march to be held on 12 Farvardin [1 April] by the Government of the Islamic Republic, it has been said in Tehran that there is a strong possibility that the march and gathering in Shahyad [Azadi] Square will result in clashes. According to communiques and night letters [shabnameh] distributed secretly by underground patriotic organizations over the last 2 days in Tehran and other cities such as Tabriz, Esfahan and Shiraz, militant groups have threatened to take strong action against those participating in the march on the march route and in Shahyad Square, the organizers of the march, as well as authorities of the ruling regime. It is also rumored that the main aim of the Islamic Republic Government in organizing these ceremonies is to uncover youths eligible for the draft who have avoided service. Any youths participating in Wednesday's celebrations will be arrested by guards and komiteh members and will immediately be sent to barracks.

Thus the atmosphere for the march on Wednesday is already gloomy and foreboding. Anything could happen. The regime's propaganda machinery is still trying to encourage the people to take part in Wednesday's march.

According to other information received (?by us), employees of private and government organizations have been implicitly threatened that if they do not participate in the march and the ceremonies, they will face strong reaction from the authorities of the Islamic Republic and the risk of being labeled counterrevolutionary.

NVOI COMMENTS ON INTERNATIONAL, DOMESTIC AFFAIRS

27 Mar Commentaries

TA271944 [Editorial Report] The clandestine National Voice of Iran in Persian to Iran at 1730 GMT on 27 March carried two commentaries

The first commentary was entitled "Let Us Replace Inconsistent Methods With a Consistent Revolutionary Policy." It said: Imam Khomeyni is constantly sending messages and giving us his guidelines. The people rightly want to know who is actually responsible for implementing the imam's guidelines and which of the legislative, executive and judicial powers is responsible for implementing them. They also want to know why the imam's guidelines are not being carried out. In his guidelines the imam has repeatedly called on the country's authorities to improve the living conditions of millions of deprived persons in towns and villages. In practice, however, not only has no attention been paid to these guidelines, but also they have all been disregarded by some of the authorities and by those who are supposed to implement them.

For example, let us consider the distribution of land. It is true that agricultural companies belonging to imperialist countries and to the leaders of the former regime have been nationalized and their properties have been confiscated. It is also true that with the approval of the land distribution law, the struggle against the feudalists intensified and in various areas some land was distributed among the landless peasants. It is also well known, however, that in implementing the land distribution law revolutionary authorities did not carry out the expected decisive and revolutionary action.

More than 2 years have passed since the victory of our nation's revolution. During this period, by dispossessing all the big landowners and the feudalists, the government could and should have distributed their usurped land among millions of small landowners or landless farmers. Unfortunately, however, the government not only did not carry out this important and revolutionary measure, but by suspending implementation of paragraph 6 of the land distribution law it in fact took steps toward preserving the interests of the feudalists and big landowners. Unfortunately, the authorities have not carried out the revolutionary and decisive action expected by the nation in implementing the imam's guidelines and the principles of the constitution in respect with the land distribution law and with the law pertaining to the nationalization of foreign trade. It is for this reason that many of the main problems of the revolution have still remained unresolved. It is obvious that the counterrevolution is exploiting this situation to its benefit and to the benefit of its American masters. A consistent revolutionary policy must replace in concistent methods.

The second commentary was entitled: "America and The Militarization of The Persian Gulf Region." It said: The United States is feverishly implementing the policy of militarizing the Persian Gulf and the areas around it, and is heightening tensions in this region in every way possible. With complete impunity the United States has declared the oil-rich countries of the Persian Gulf region as an area of its vital interests. Washington is exerting all its efforts so that by intensifying tensions it can create suitable conditions for escalating its military presence and for establishing new military bases, whether in the Persian Gulf region or around it. The people of the world are aware that the United States has concentrated its massive naval force in the Persian Gulf region, and that U.S. military activity in the Persian Gulf is increasing day by day. On the one hand the United States is escalating its military presence in its war bases in this region, and on the other hand it is engaged in establishing new military bases.

It should be pointed out that if the U.S. puppets had not supported the policy of that country, without doubt the United States and its military circles could not have penetrated so deeply in the Persian Gulf region and encircled it. Such countries as Somalia and Kenya have placed their harbors at the disposal of the Pentagon's naval forces and in exchange are receiving military assistance from the United States. The Saudi Arabian regime has escalated the U.S. military presence in that country; more than 7,000 U.S. military experts are active in Saudi Arabia and actually control the Saudi Arabian Armed Forces. The United States has also placed 4 AWACS aircraft at the disposal of Saudi Arabia, and the Pentagon intends to use these planes for surveillance along the Persian Gulf coasts, including our country.

The puppet sultan of Oman is playing the most treacherous roles in respect with the countries of the Persian Gulf region. The U.S. stooge, Qabus, has placed Al-Masirah Island at the complete disposal of the U.S. militarists. The United States has also involved Ziaul Haq's military regime in its military adventures in the Persian Gulf. Pakistan has dispatched two divisions to Saudi Arabia for allegedly preserving security. All the nations and most of the governments of the Persian Gulf countries condemn the United States' policy of aggression and militarization in this region and believe that preserving the security of the Persian Gulf region is solely the duty of the countries of this region themselves.

28 Mar Commentaries

TA282037 [Editorial Report] The clandestine National Voice of Iran in Persian to Iran at 1730 GMT on 28 March carried two commentaries:

The first commentary, entitled "Why the United States Supports a So-Called Moderate and Temperate Government," stated that U.S. imperialism and its multicolored (?allies) such as counterrevolutionary elements, U.S. Maoists or Savakists have recently exerted futile efforts to implement their plans and are now using new methods to promote their anti-Iranian goals. Recently it has been heard from the mouth of some administrators of the U.S. imperialist policy that allegedly the United States wants to bring to power a so-called moderate government in Iran. We should not forget that on the eve of our glorious revolution the United States also exerted efforts to bring to power a government favorable to U.S. interests. In those days too the United States intended to abolish the popular and anti-imperialist revolution of our people in favor of a so-called moderate government. As an example, the letter of Sullivan, U.S. Ambassador to Iran on the eve of the revolution, can be referred to in which, while expressing strong opposition to Imam Khomeyni's leadership, he says that any moderate and pro-Western group that will arise in struggle against the mullahs should be labeled "progressive."

One of the agents of the U.S. spyhouse in Iran, in a letter addressed to the U.S. State Department in Mehr 1358, [September-October 1979] while saying that during that sensitive period no government was able to overthrow the Iranian Government and that Khomeyni was not a person for negotiations, wrote that we can work for a moderate Iran and for nationalists opposed to the clergy to have more control in the government and in the running of the state. The U.S. spy then says in his letter that the United States should strengthen special elements in the army, the moderate clergy and secular groups able to play an important role in the future government.

It is quite obvious that the aim of U.S. imperialism and the agents of its policy in supporting a so-called moderate government in Iran is to abolish the revolution and limit it in the framework of a monarchless constitution or a monarch obedient to them, to abolish the progressive clergy and to revive their past deadly domination in our homeland. In order to fulfill this goal, Western propaganda machinery and their agents inside our country have exerted all their efforts to prevent the progressive clergy, by resorting to different ruses and tricks, from carrying out any kind of progressive economic, cultural and social programs under the pretext that allegedly these programs are communist or popular.

We should confess that to this day U.S. imperialism and its agents in Iran have been successful to a certain extent in carrying out this plan. Counterrevolutionaries, Savakists and so-called moderate elements along with their mouthpieces have several goals. They want to prevent the implementation of any sort of progressive program by the revolutionary leadership and separate the masses from the progressive clergy and its leaders. These elements are well aware of the fact that the masses cannot be kept silent for a long time with slogans and prayers. The people demand specific steps be taken for meeting their spiritual and material needs.

The second commentary was entitled "The Reason For The High Cost of Living Should Be Destroyed." It said: The people of our country have felt the effects of the high price of consumer goods, especially during the new year festivities, more now than at any other time. High prices are some of the inheritances of the past cursed regime that places the people of our country under pressure. One of the reasons for high prices in our country is, as in the past, that trade has remained in the hands of a group of profit-seekers. It is these dependent elements who under the excuse of importing goods, transfer large sums of the country's currency abroad and sell at very high prices the goods that they import. Thus the main reason for high prices should be sought among these counter-revolutionary elements who, through high prices, fan discontent and make people turn away from the revolution. One should not doubt that if the principle of nationalizing foreign trade is implemented and goods are delivered at reasonable prices to the markets by the government and if the middlemen are done away with prices will be stable.

The implementation of the principle of nationalizing foreign trade will bar counter-revolutionary plots in the bazaar. Thus, it is up to the authorities of the Islamic Republic of Iran to take serious revolutionary steps for eradicating high prices.

29 Mar Commentaries

TA291958 [Editorial Report] The clandestine National Voice of Iran in Persian to Iran at 1730 GMT on 29 March carried two commentaries.

The first, entitled "The People Demand the Publication of the Protocol of the Secret Talks with Brezezinski," reported that the true revolutionary forces have demanded many times the publication of the contents of the secret talks of the provisional government's delegation with Brzezinski, but to this day the slightest heed has not been paid to this demand. Many government officials and committed members of the Majlis have officially demanded the publication of this protocol.

Recently, Ayatollah Beheshiti, president of the state Supreme Court, during his weekly interview, while pointing to the remarks of Mr Bazargan, head of the Iranian delegation in the talks with the Zionist Brzezinski, said that if there is any objection regarding the meeting of the gentlemen with Brzezinski, it is because the contents of this meeting should be made public to the people or at least to the Revolution Council. Beheshti added that after more than a year it would be appropriate for the contents to be published so no grounds for suspicion would remain against the gentlemen. Despite this warning from Ayatollah Beheshti, nothing has been done in this respect; a fact that arouses increasing suspicion against these gentlemen, especially since they oppose the imam's popular anti-imperialist line.

Refraining from publishing the protocol of the talks held between the Iranian delegation with Brzezinski, in the best case, is a manifestation of the fact that Bazargan, Yazdi and Chamran are afraid of such a publication. But since total silence can be dangerous, these gentlemen, while keeping silent over the main issues, have published articles in their paper, MIZAN, speaking of the legitimacy of holding talks with the enemy. Their aim is to portray their talks with Brzezinski as being beneficial for the nation and revolution and they also pretend that they have answered the people's demand for publishing the protocol of these talks.

The people say that because Bazargan and his friends refrain from publishing the contents of these talks, it is the duty of the revolutionary leadership to inform the people as soon as possible about their contents. Thus, either there will be no grounds for suspicion against these gentlemen or their true features will be revealed.

The second commentary, entitled "Energy Crisis and U.S. Policy," said: According to the calculations of experts, the price of oil has risen eight times since 1972. The energy crisis has been transformed into an acute problem in the capitalist world and this crisis is the consequence of rabid exploitation of the oil resources of developing countries by the plundering interests of imperialist countries headed by the United States.

The fever of the oil consumers' cartel for making huge profits has caused the oil riches of the OPEC countries to be exploited. The intensification of the energy crisis in the world has left a negative effect on the group of developing countries not possessing oil. Imperialist countries, especially the United States, are trying to put the blame for such a situation on the OPEC countries and claim that alleged OPEC oil price increases have caused the financial difficulties.

In order to aid these countries, OPEC has decided to allot $1.5 billion to them. The OPEC countries should not give in to U.S. blackmail or military threats which, in any case, cannot deny the countries the right to their own resources.

SRI LANKA

PRESIDENT JAYEWARDENE SENDS MESSAGE TO REAGAN

BK311211 Hong Kong AFP in English 1057 GMT 31 Mar 81

[Text] Colombo, 31 Mar (AFP)--Sri Lanka President J.R. Jayewardene said today he was shocked to read about the attempt on the life of President Reagan of the United States.

In a message sent to Mr Reagan, he also said "I am relieved to learn that you could be able to resume the active leadership of your people early." Mr Jayewardene wished Mr Reagan a very speedy recovery.

NEPAL

KING OF NEPAL WISHES REAGAN SPEEDY RECOVERY

BK311519 Katmandu External Service in English 1450 GMT 31 Mar 81

[Text] His majesty the king, in a message sent to U.S. President Ronald Reagan today, has said that the queen and I have been deeply shocked by the news of the attempt on the excellency's life.

His majesty the king in the message has added that the government and the people of Nepal (?join us) and pray that you will recover soon and will continue to lead your country to still further progress and prosperity.

NEPAL 'SATISFIED' WITH RELATIONS WITH U.S.

BK271532 Katmandu External Service in English 1450 GMT 27 Mar 81

[Text] A letter from Foreign Minister K.B. Shahi addressed to U.S. Secretary of State Gen Alexander Haig was delivered recently in Washington D.C. by the Royal Nepalese ambassador to the United States.

Foreign Minister Shahi is understood to have expressed the satisfaction of his majesty's government at the growth of Nepal-U.S. relations, in particular the cooperation which Nepal has been receiving from the United States in Napal's development efforts and the understanding of the American Government and people toward the recent constitutional reforms in Nepal.

In his letter Shahi has also expressed the hope that Nepal-U.S. relations, which are based on the fundamental principles of equality, friendship and mutual respect, will continue to grow in the coming years.